THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): A statement showing the required information is attached. [*See* Appendix CXLIII, Annexure No. 131].

Restriction on Journalists to visit restricted areas of Punjab and Assam

3473. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted the restriction imposed on foreign journalists holding Government of India's accreditation cards to visit any place or area falling under the restricted areas of Punjab and Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons for lifting the restriction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To counter the malicious and anti India propaganda in the foreign press, foreign journalists holding valid accreditation cards issued by Press Information Bureau of Government of India have been permitted since 1985 to visit the restricted areas of Punjab and Assam without the requirement of Restricted Area Permits.

Communal Riots

3474. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Miinster of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) what is the total number of communal riots and the number of persons killed, value of property damaged in the country during the last three years, with yearwise break-up of facts in details; and

(b) what is the total number of communal riots and the number of persons killed in rural and urban areas in different States in the country with breakup of figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) On the basis of available information, the particulars of major communal riots which occurred in the country during the years 1984, 1985 and 1986 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Place/State	No. of Persons killed	Total loss of property (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
	1984		
1	Bangalore (March) Karnataka	7	
2	Kidderpore (March) West Bengal	4	
3	Dharwar (May & June) Karnataka	15	60.02
4	Bhiwandi, Thane, Kalyan and Bombay (May & June) Maharashtra	278	766.00
5	Hyderabad (July & Sept.) Andhra Pradesh	40	24.66
6	Maunath Bhanjan (October) Uttar Pradesh	7	0.97